

CLAIMS

1. A device for temporal metering (1) of events,
5 comprising:
- a module for real time input (11) of occurrences
of physical events,
- a module for access (12) to at least one clock
(10), which module is designed to obtain a current time
10 with each input of one of said occurrences,
- and a module for recording (15) in at least one
metering file (F1-F3), information pertaining to said
occurrences and to the corresponding current times,
said information authorizing an at least partial
15 temporal reconstitution of said occurrences,
characterized in that said metering device (1) also
comprises a module for summary processing (13) of said
occurrences and of said current times, which module is
designed to produce condensed results (H1, H2), and in
20 that the recording module (15) is designed to record
said condensed results (H1, H2) in predefined data
structures of prefixed sizes of said metering file
(F1-F3), so as to make it possible to keep the size of
said file (F1-F3) constant during successive recordings
25 of said information.

2. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in
claim 1, characterized in that the summary processing
module (13) is designed to produce at least two types
30 of distinct results (H1, H2), at least one of said
types of results comprising redundancies with respect
to the other types of results, so as to allow checks of
consistency of said results (H1, H2).

35 3. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in
claim 2, characterized in that the summary processing

module (13) is designed so that said types of results (H1, H2) provide complementary information.

4. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said types of results comprise:

- a first type of results (H1) consisting of numbers (N_i) of said occurrences per slot (PE_i) of durations of gaps (Δt) between two of said consecutive occurrences
- 10 - and a second type of results (H2) consisting of numbers (N'_j) of said occurrences per consecutive time slot (PT_j) of a predetermined period (P).

5. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said slots (PE_i) of durations of gaps of the first type of results (H1) have amplitudes increasing not strictly with said durations (Δt).

6. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said physical events comprise calls to a piece of software situated on a source machine by appliances able to communicate with said machine.

7. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said physical events comprise telephone calls.

8. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said physical events comprise predefined maneuvers in a motor vehicle.

9. The temporal metering device (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said physical events comprise uses of computer

functionalities available on a machine and liable to undergo malfunctions on account of technical problems.

10. A method of temporal metering of events, in which
5 occurrences of physical events are flagged in real time, at least one clock (10) is accessed so as to obtain a current time of each of said occurrences and information pertaining to said occurrences and to the
10 corresponding current times is recorded in at least one metering file (F1-F3), said information authorizing an at least partial temporal reconstitution of said occurrences,
characterized in that a summary processing of said occurrences and of said current times is performed
15 automatically, so as to produce condensed results (H1, H2) and in that said information is recorded in the form of said condensed results (H1, H2), in predefined data structures of prefixed sizes of said metering file (F1-F3), so as to make it possible to keep the size of
20 said file (F1-F3) constant during successive recordings of said information,
said method preferably being implemented by means of a metering device (1) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

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11. A device for temporal analysis (2) of events on the basis of at least one metering file (F1-F3) obtained by means of a metering device (1) in as claimed in claim 2 and in any one of claims 2 to 9,
30 comprising:

- a module for extracting (21) the results (H1, H2) recorded in said file (F1-F3),
- a module for verifying consistencies (22) of the results respectively of said types of results (H1, H2),
- 35 - and a module for producing (23) a warning signal (S) intended for a user in the case of inconsistency of said results (H1, H2).

12. The temporal analysis device (2) as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that said metering file (F1-F3) being obtained by means of a metering device (1) as claimed in claim 3 and in any one of claims 3 to 9, said temporal analysis device (2) also comprises:

- a module (24) for inputting requests of a user, said requests pertaining to temporal cues relating to the occurrences of said events,
 - 10 - a module for combined processing (25) of said types of results (H1, H2), which module is designed to produce said temporal cues as a function of said information recorded,
 - and a module for presenting (26) said temporal cues to said user.
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13. A method of temporal analysis of events on the basis of at least one metering file (F1-F3) obtained by a means of a metering device (1) as claimed in claim 2 and in any one of claims 2 to 9, in which:

- results (H1, H2) recorded in said file (F1-F3) are extracted,
 - the consistencies of the results respectively of said types of results (H1, H2) are verified automatically,
 - 25 - and a warning signal (S) intended for a user in the case of inconsistency of said results (H1, H2) is produced,
- said method preferably being implemented by means of a temporal analysis device (2) as claimed in either of claims 11 and 12.
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14. A computer program product comprising program code instructions for the execution of the steps of the method as claimed in either one of claims 10 and 13 when said program is executed on a computer.

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